

"Living up to our Position in Christ."

Part 3

Colossians 3:1-12

Introduction: In the past two studies we looked at Colossians 3:1-3 in which Paul begins to take his readers into the practical part of this letter. In these verses there are two commands. First, we are to "seek those things that are above" and second, we are to "set our affection on things above." Paul went on to explain that we are hid in Christ.

Notice Colossians 3:1-3

Jesus is seated in a place of high honor and we are in Him so we should live up to this honorable position.

Notice Colossians 3:3-4

We are hid in Christ now. The world does not know who we are but there is coming a day when the world will see Jesus and the world will know us for who we are. All of creation which is under the curse longs for this day.

Romans 8:19-22

¹⁹ For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

²⁰ For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

²¹ Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

²² For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

When will this day come? At the end of the Great Tribulation when Jesus returns.

This then is who we are in Jesus Christ. Now Paul will get detailed about how we are to live.

➤ **Casting off Sin**

Notice Colossians 3:5a

This is a call to put to death that which is earthly within us. We are to put to death our earthly desires and old sinful practices. Before salvation our members, hands, feet,

tongue, brain and so on were ruled by sin. Now we are new creations and we MUST NOT allow sin to have dominion over us. It is our responsibility to kill sin.

Romans 6:11-18

¹¹ *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

¹² *Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.*

¹³ *Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*

¹⁴ *For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.*

¹⁵ *What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.*

¹⁶ *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

¹⁷ *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.*

¹⁸ *Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*

As believers we are dead to sin meaning that sin can have no power over us unless we allow it to do so. We are dead to sin but sin is not dead. It must be put to death every single day or it will rise up in our lives and seek to have dominion over us.

Illustration:

At my house there are places where I spray "Roundup" to kill the grass and the weeds. It works really well but it has to be sprayed several times a year because after the weeds are put to death they will eventually be revived and they will come up again. In the same way we were delivered from the power of sin when we were saved but sin is still alive and if it is not constantly killed it will come right back into our lives again.

Notice Romans 6:16 again.

¹⁶ *Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

If we allow ourselves to be servants of sin it will lead to death. What does this mean? It means it will kill your spiritual life. Sin will kill the power that God desires to have flowing through us. It will kill the peace in your life. It will kill your testimony. It will kill your desire for the Word. It will kill your desire for fellowship with the Lord. It will kill your prayer life. Notice what happened in David's life because of his sin.

Psalm 38:1-3

O Lord, rebuke me not in thy wrath: neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure.

² *For thine arrows stick fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore.*

³ *There is no soundness in my flesh because of thine anger; neither is there any rest in my bones because of my sin.*

Psalm 40:12

¹² *For innumerable evils have compassed me about: mine iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of mine head: therefore my heart faileth me.*

Psalm 32:1-4

Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

² *Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.*

³ *When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.*

⁴ *For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah.*

Notice Colossians 3:5a again.

The word "mortify" tells us straight up that sin will not die by itself. We must kill it if we are going to enjoy the graces of our Lord. Jesus spoke of the need to mortify the flesh in the Sermon on the Mount.

Matthew 5:27-30

²⁷ *Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:*

²⁸ But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

²⁹ And if thy right eye offend thee, **pluck** it out, and **cast** it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

³⁰ And if thy right hand offend thee, **cut** it off, and **cast** it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.

In bolded and underlined the verbs here because they speak of immediate action. In other words, Jesus is giving the idea that this must be done NOW without delay. Notice the words of Owens.

"Beware if you think you are "doing good" with a sin that so easily has entangled you. Sin is never less quiet than when it seems to be most quiet, and its waters are for the most part deep when they are still. Satan is likely to attack when a believer is most satisfied with his spiritual life. That is when pride, the chief of sins, easily sneaks into our lives unnoticed and lead us to believe that contentment with ourselves is contentment in God."

Let me show you a picture that is found in the Old Testament about how we are to treat the flesh.

Genesis 25:21-23, 31-33

²¹ And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

³¹ And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

³² And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

³³ *And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.*

Esau is a type of the sin nature. He despised the birth right because he despised the things of God just as our flesh. Now keep in mind every descendant of Esau pictures the flesh/sin nature. Now let us jump to Exodus as Israel is in the wilderness.

Exodus 17:8

⁸ *Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim.*

Amalek was a descendant of Esau so they are a type of the flesh here.

Deuteronomy 25:17-18

¹⁷ *Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt:*

¹⁸ *How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.*

Here we see who they attacked and this is a picture of the believer who falls to the desires of the flesh. Now let us step into the life of Saul to see what God commanded him to do.

1 Samuel 15:1-3, 7-9

Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

² *Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.*

³ *Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.*

⁷ *And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.*

⁸ *And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.*

⁹ But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

¹³ And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

¹⁹ Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD?

²⁰ And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites.

²¹ But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal.

²² And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.

²³ For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

³² Then said Samuel, Bring ye hither to me Agag the king of the Amalekites. And Agag came unto him delicately. And Agag said, Surely the bitterness of death is past.

³³ And Samuel said, As thy sword hath made women childless, so shall thy mother be childless among women. And Samuel hewed Agag in pieces before the LORD in Gilgal.

Conclusion:

The Bible is very clear about our responsibility to kill sin in our lives. Next week we will look at the sins which Paul mentions in the text.